



County of San Diego
Department of the Alternate Public Defender
110 West "C" Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101



Volunteer position description:

Volunteer Law Clerk/Intern: criminal law, juvenile dependency, and juvenile delinquency

The program provides the opportunity to actively participate in the experience of representing clients in serious criminal and juvenile delinquency and dependency cases. Completed course work in criminal law and criminal procedure is required. Completion of evidence is preferred, but motivation to participate in the program is an acceptable alternative.

Law Clerks/Interns who are certified by the State Bar may appear in court and represent clients under the supervision of an attorney pursuant to State Bar rules.

Activities of a Law Clerk/Intern include:

1. Participating in every aspect of case preparation, from arraignment to post-conviction relief, including making supervised court appearances, if certified.
2. Conducting legal research and writing, including:
 - Motions regarding 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th amendment violations
 - Motions to sever defendants and/or counts
 - Motions to reduce a felony to a misdemeanor and withdraw plea
 - Motions to dismiss and strike "strikes"
 - Statement in mitigation
 - W & I code § 388 Motions
 - Child Custody issues/orders
3. Conducting client interviews, including jail visits, if desired.
4. Working with investigators and experts.
5. Case investigation.
6. Possible Death Penalty work.

Training: New clerks/interns receive training from deputy alternate public defenders.

Commitment: Law clerks/interns are expected to make a minimum time commitment of 8 hours per week for a minimum of one semester or summer session, with a strong preference for 20 or more hours per week. Law clerks/interns participate in their scheduling.

Locations: Downtown central office (adult criminal) with branch offices in South Bay, El Cajon, Vista and central juvenile delinquency and dependency offices in Kearny Mesa.